Assembly Resolution No. 1002

BY: M. of A. Walsh

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 9, 2024, as Yellow Ribbon Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to pay the highest tribute to the members of the United States Armed Forces during times of crisis who have so faithfully served their community and country with courage and commitment contributing to the safety and welfare of others and the preservation of the freedoms and democratic principles upon which this State and Nation are founded; and

WHEREAS, The dedication and sacrifices of our military personnel ensure our continued role as a Nation which embodies the ideals of democracy, and which is a defender of liberty for peoples throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 9, 2024, as Yellow Ribbon Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Many have devoted countless hours distributing yellow ribbons around the State of New York to heighten awareness and support of our service men and women who are serving our country, in addition to promoting unity and respect for those brave individuals who protect our freedom; and

WHEREAS, The banner of freedom will always wave over our beloved New York and all of America, the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave; and

WHEREAS, Residents of this great State must never forget the courage with which these men and women served their country, and must recognize that no greater debt is owed than that owed to those who gave their lives for their beloved Nation and to those who continue to be missing in action; and

WHEREAS, American former Prisoners of War are heroes whose service to our country will never be forgotten; these brave men and women fought for their country and endured cruelties and deprivation as they helped to protect our Nation, and to liberate millions from the threats of tyranny and terror, advancing the cause of freedom worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The freedoms and security we cherish as Americans come at a very high price for those serving in the military in times of conflict; it is fitting and proper that we who are the beneficiaries of those who risk their lives, leaving their families behind, express our appreciation and eternal gratitude for their sacrifices and courageous acts; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, the New York State Legislature began to

commemorate Yellow Ribbon Day on April 9th of each year due to the advocacy of Halfmoon resident, Carol Pingelski Hotaling, commonly known as "The Yellow Ribbon Lady;" and

WHEREAS, US Army Staff Sergeant Maupin was the first POW of the Iraq War; he was captured on April 9, 2004, and remains the inspiration for this special, yet somber day, which serves as a reminder of all those who serve our country and deserve the recognition throughout our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 9, 2024, as Yellow Ribbon Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.